

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 15265 131714Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9388

S E C R E T CAIRO 15265

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: MARR, US, EG, IT

SUBJECT: MIG MAINTENANCE AND THE CONGRESS

REF: STATE 218661

1. REFTEL JUST RECEIVED. SINCE SADAT IS STILL IN CANAL ZONE, I HAVE NO WAY OF GETTING MESSAGE DIRECTLY TO HIM. HENCE, I CONTACTED FAHMY AT HIS HOME ON SECURE PHONE AND TOLD HIM OF TOMORROW'S HAMILTON SUB-COMMITTEE HEARING IN WHICH HARD QUESTIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE ASKED RE PLANS FOR MAINTENANCE OF EGYPTIAN MIG AIRCRAFT. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO SATISFY LEGITIMATE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THIS MATTER WHILE AT SAME TIME RESPECTING POLITICAL AND MILITARY SENSITIVITIES OF GOE.

2. I INDICATED ROY ATHERTON WILL BE TESTIFYING AND GAVE HIM DETAILS OF OUR PLANS FOR HANDLING ISSUE (PARA 3 A-F). TOLD HIM THAT, IN OUR JUDGMENT, THIS IS BEST WAY TO HANDLE SUBJECT WITH DUE REGARD TO CONCERNS OF ALL PARTIES INVOLVED. I ASKED THAT HE GET WORD OF THIS TO THE PRESIDENT ASAP.

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3. FAHMY ASKED IF WE ARE INFORMING THE ITALIANS. I TOLD HIM SE ARE DOING SO, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT IN SPEAKING OF THIRD COUNTRIES, WE ARE NOT MENTIONING ITALY BY NAME.

4. FAHMY THEN SAID THAT HE HAD NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE.

HE ASKED, HOWEVER, THAT ATHERTON NOT VOLUNTEER THIS INFORMATION. IF HE IS PUSHED HARD ON THE SUBJECT AND IS UNABLE TO DIVERT THE INQUIRY, THEN THE ANSWERS WE PROPOSE MIGHT BE GIVEN. ASSURED HIM THIS IS SOLE BASIS ON WHICH ATHERTON WILL MAKE POINTS. FAHMY UNDERTOOK TO LET THE PRESIDENT KNOW SOON AS HE NEXT SEES HIM (THIS MAY NOT BE FOR A DAY OR TWO). WHILE FAHMY WOULD OBVIOUSLY PREFER THAT NOTHING BE SAID, IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT OVERLY CONCERNED IF SUCH A DIS-CLOSURE HAS TO BE MADE.

5. RE PARA REFTEL, IN UK AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE ON LEAVE, HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH UK CHARGE MOON. HE WILL COME BY TOMORROW MORNING, AT WHICH TIME I WILL BRIEF HIM.

EILTS

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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